IMAM AL - BUKHARI

Imam Al-Bukhari is one of the greatest scholars who walked on the face of the earth. His book Sahih Al-Bukhari is the second most authentic book in the world after Quran. In Sha Allah, we will get to know him in brief about his life time, knowledge, and his accomplishments and about his incredible photographic memory.

LEARN ISLAM

Written By: Mohammed Imran Khan
Source: The Daily Reminder on YouTube

وَمَا كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنفِرُوا كَافَّةً ۚ فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِن كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ –

CHAPTER 9, VERSE 122

And it is not for the believers to go forth (to battle) all at once. For there should separate from every division of them a group (remaining) to obtain understanding in the religion and warn their people when they return to them that they might be cautious. (Sahih International)

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE:

- It was narrated that Anas bin Malik said: The Messenger of Allah said: **"Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim"**. (Sunan Ibn-e-Majah, Book of Sunnah, Hadith No 224, Classified as Sahih by Allama Albani)

LEARN ISLAM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

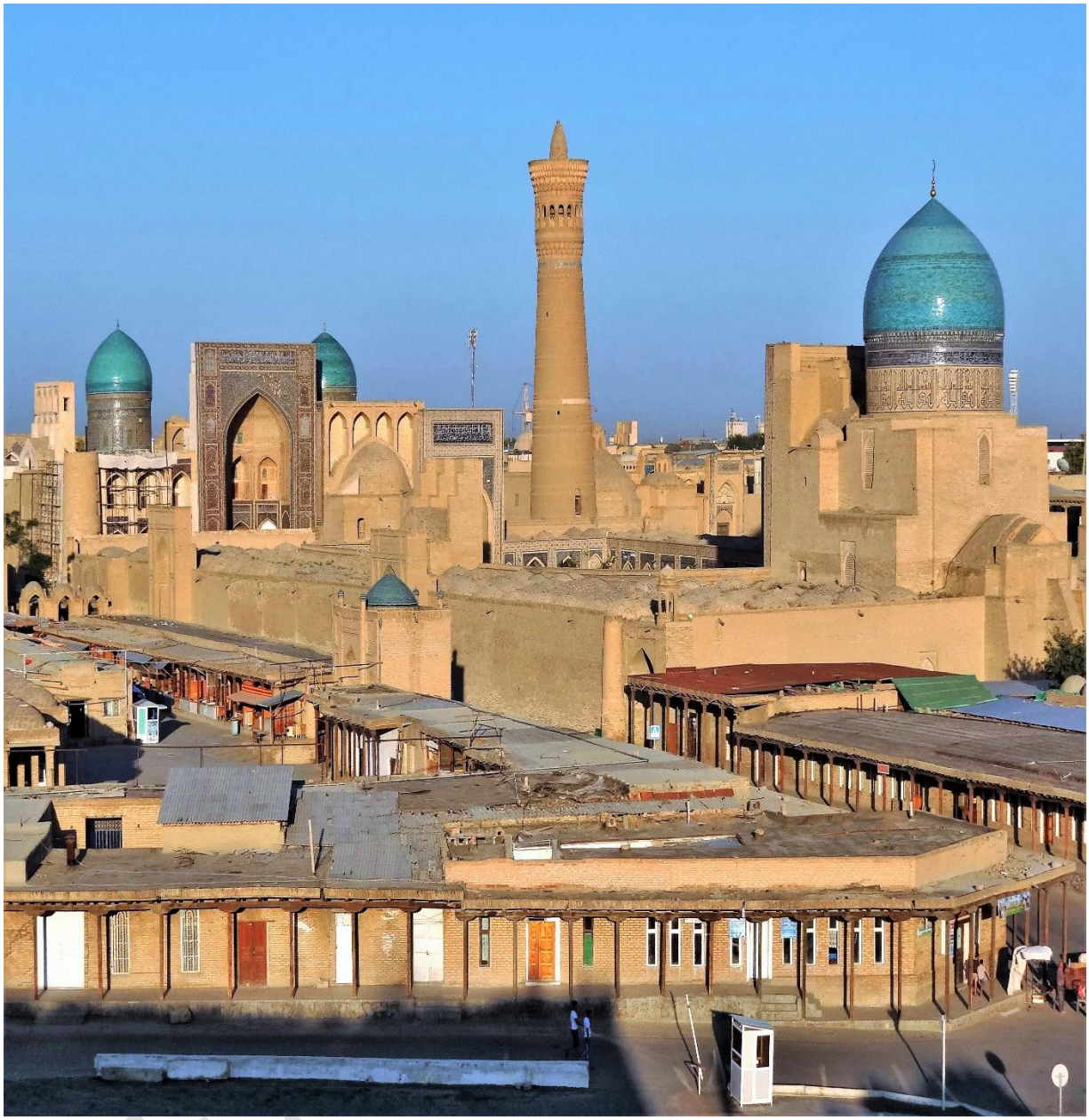
SL.NO	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1	Introduction	3
2	Pic - City of Bukhara, Uzbekistan	4
3	Pic – Imam Al-Bukhari Traveling Different for Knowledge	5
4	Pic – The Second Most Authentic in Islam – Sahih Al-Bukhari	6
5	Pic – The Tomb of Imam Al-Bukhari	7
6	The Early Childhood	8
7	The Mother of Imam Al-Bukhari	9
8	The Miracle of Eyesight	10
9	The Dream of Imam Al-Bukhari	11
10	A Genius in the Making	12
11	Trip to Hajj	13
12	His First Book / The Science of Men	14
13	The Testimony of Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal	15
14	Was He Married? Did He Have Children?	16
15	Photographic Memory	18
16	The Greatest Work of Imam Al-Bukhari	19
17	What Happened to the 10,000 Dinars?	20
18	Master of 3 Sciences	21
19	The Testimony of Imam Muslim	22
20	Haters – The Rivalry and Slander	23
21	Political Pressure, Threats and Discretization	25
22	The Death of the Greatest Scholar of Hadith	26
23	The Dream and Conclusion	27

LEARNISLAM

INTRODUCTION

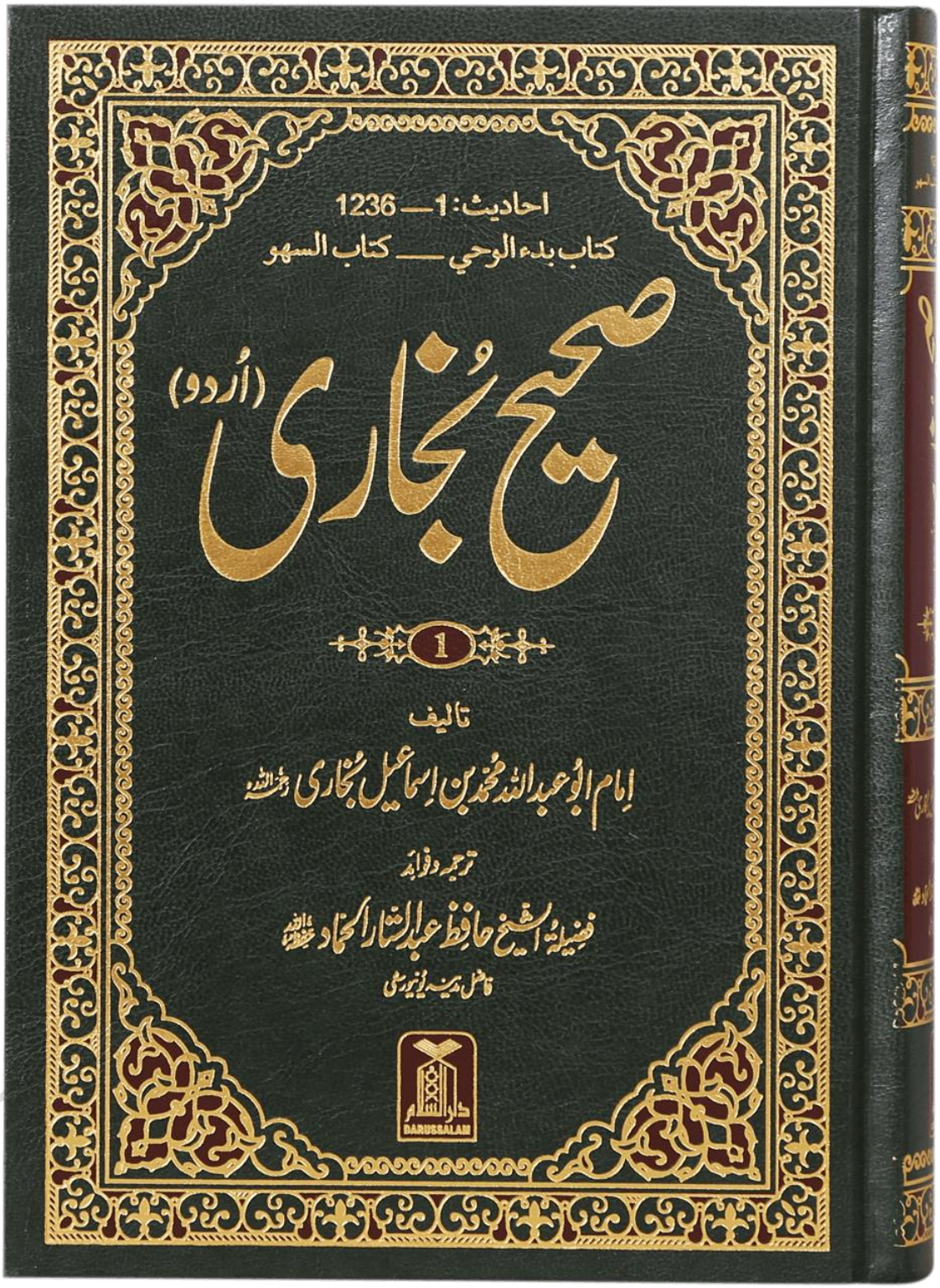
NAME	:	Abu Abdullah Mohammed
FATHER	:	Ismail
GRANDFATHER	:	Ibrahim
GREAT GRANDFATHER:		Mugheera *(Reverted to Islam during the lifetime of Sahaba)*
BORN	:	21st July 810 / 13th Shawwal 194 A.H
BIRTH PLACE	:	Bukhara in Uzbekistan
DEATH	:	1st September 870 / 1st Shawwal 256 A.H (Aged 60)
DEATH PLACE	:	Khartank (Samarkand in Uzbekistan)
ETHNICITY	:	Persian
DENOMINATION	:	Sunni
MAIN INTERESTS	:	Hadith and Aqeedah
NOTABLE WORKS	:	Sahih Al-Bukhari and Al Adab Al-Mufrad
OCCUPATION	:	Muhaddith, Hadith Compiler, Islamic Scholar
INFLUENCED BY	:	Al-Shafi'i Ahmed Ibn Hanbal Ali Ibn Al-Madini Yahya Ibn Mai'n Ishaq Ibn Rahwayh
INFLUENCED	:	Muslim Ibn Al-Hajjaj Ibn Abi Asim

LEARN ISLAM



THE CITY OF BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN

IMAM AL-BUKHARI TRAVELING DIFFERENT LANDS FOR KNOWLEDGE



The second most authentic book of Islam – SAHIH AL-BUKHARI

The Tomb of Imam Al-Bukhari – Near Samarkand

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD

Imam Al-Bukhari has two key events at his early childhood,

01. His father passed away when he was very young.
02. He went blind at the age of 3.

LEARN ISLAM

THE MOTHER OF IMAM AL-BUKHARI

The mother of Imam Al-Bukhari is pious. She loved to worship ALLAH (SWT). She continually every night at Lail-ul-Qiyam praying Salah and asking dua about his child's eyesight.

LEARN ISLAM

THE MIRACLE OF THE EYESIGHT

One night while she was sleeping, she saw a dream. She saw Ibrahim (A.S) saying to her that ALLAH (SWT) has restored the eyesight of your child because of your dua. She wakes up and goes to Imam Al-Bukhari and as she wakes him up, he opens his eyes looking around clearly, confused about how he can see?

ALLAH (SWT) answered her dua and this is so significant because we owe the entire legacy of Imam Al-Bukhari to his mother.

LEARN ISLAM

THE DREAM OF IMAM AL-BUKHARI

At his childhood, he saw a dream in one night, in that dream he saw the Prophet (SAW) walking and he was walking behind him (SAW), putting his foot in the footsteps of the Prophet (SAW).

LEARN ISLAM

A GENIUS IN THE MAKING

There are few stories about him when he was a child, to show you how incredible the memory he had,

Firstly, one of the scholars that he studied with was a man by the name of Imam Al-Dakhili (Rahimahu Allah). Al-Dakhili was considered one of the most prominent hadith scholars in Bukhara.

One day Imam Al-Bukhari was sitting there, Al-Bukhari was only 11 years old. Al-Dakhili saying a hadith with isnad (chain narrators), he is going through the chain of narrators and Bukhari raised his hands, he says Ya-Shaikh, Abu Zubair has never met Ibrahim. Shaikh said, are you sure what you are talking about? He was like who is this 11 years old kid trying to show me up in a Halakhah? And tell me that these two hadith narrators never met, so he was really mad.

Al-Bukhari said, My master, go ahead and go back to your origin and see the original copy and see if you find that,

Al-Dakhili made the entire Halakah sit there, he went home and went through his scrolls so he could find that hadith and find that chain and he can come back to us. All the other students are mad at Bukhari because they just have to sit there and they are not even getting any hadith there, just waiting for the teacher to come back and he is all angry to figure out whether this 11-year-old kid has a point.

Al-Dakhili comes back laughing and he says to Al-Bukhari the correct chain of narrators, then asking how did you figure that out? So, Al-Bukhari gave him the correct chain and said that I have read before. He then said, you have told the truth, what a bright young man you are. You are going to have a special status, Al-Dakhili was so relieved, and he was very very impressed by Imam Al-Bukhari.

LEARN ISLAM

TRIP TO HAJJ

At the age of 16, his mother and older brother and him went for Hajj and during that time Hajj season and Makkah overall was the International University of Muslims because in those days there was no 2 weeks visa. You have to go and come back, this is the one and only lifetime that it will take you 2 years to go from Andalus to Makkah.

What do you think the scholars are going to do when they are living in Makkah? They will benefit and narrate and so Makkah was primary International Islamic University where all the scholars in the world would be narrating the Fiqh and Hadith and Aqeedah whatever else is going on, they are all having their Halakah.

So, Imam Al-Bukhari at the age of 16, sees all of this and he is dazzled. This is a dream come true. He begs his mother to go back with my brother and let me stay here. He wasn't planning to do this when he left Bukhara, then he gets to Makkah, He sees what he wants to do. So, his mother with her blessings allowed him to remain in Makkah and so he never returned permanently to Bukhara until the end of his life.

LEARN ISLAM

HIS FIRST BOOK (THE SCIENCE OF MEN)

At the age of 18, he authored his first book. Its 9 thick volumes. Writes advanced books, subjects possible and that is Ilm-Rijal or Science of Men, to this day scholars of hadith used this book as a primary reference for figuring out the names, biography, places.

For Bukhari to have written this at the age of 18 shows us that he has mastered this field.

LEARN ISLAM

THE TESTIMONY OF IMAM AHMED IBN HANBAL

Of his greatest honors and privileges, as he traveled to Bagdad at the time there was the greatest scholar of hadith alive and that is Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal. And so Imam Al-Bukhari studied under Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal when he was barely in his 20's and Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal was in his 70's.

Imam Ibn Hanbal said I have never seen from the entire province of Qurasan someone like Mohammed Ibn Ismail (Al-Bukhari). Now Qurasan is one of the largest provinces of the empire at that time.

Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal met with Al-Bukhari when Bukhari was still a young man. Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal is the undisputed champion of hadith and he is saying in the entire province, I have never seen a man like Imam Al-Bukhari. So, what is Qurasan? Qurasan is part of Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. This is all Qurasan.

LEARN ISLAM

WAS HE MARRIED? DID HE HAVE CHILDREN?

Was Imam Al-Bukhari married? Did Imam Al-Bukhari have children?

As mentioned earlier, ALLAH knows best, the difference of opinion on this issue, but it doesn't seem that Imam Al-Bukhari got married or had any children.

LEARN ISLAM

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

He had blessed with what we call now Photographic Memory that he only needed to see a hadith once and he never needed the notes again.

Ibn Kathir writes that Imam Al-Bukhari, he just needs to read a page once that the page will memorize with him for as long as he lives. This is something that in his lifetime people began to doubt. His memory was so amazing that in his lifetime scholars who are far senior to him began to say these are rumors. Multiple times scholars put him to the test at public and quizzed him at public.

The famous test was done to Imam Al-Bukhari when he was in his 30's. After he revisited Baghdad after Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal passed away. They told Imam Al-Bukhari, let us meet at the masjid of Bagdad the famous masjid, Jamia Al Kabir (Big Masjid). They said we will narrate ten hadith so that all of the students get to benefit from that. They wanted to trick Bukhari, What they have done? They mix match the chain of narrators called (Isnad) with the (Matan) the actual text and to put wring Matan with another isnad.

And to put the wrong matan with another isnad so that outwardly it would appear that this hadith looks reasonable because for example, A narrates from B narrates from C narrates from D that the Prophet (SAW) said Innamal A'malu Binniyat but the fact of the matter ABCD didn't narrate Innamal A'malu Binniyat rather EFGH narrated Innamal A'malu Binniyat. You see what I am saying here,

The isnad cuts, the matan cut and pasted together and you can form a new hadith. Now the scholars of hadith, they don't just look at Innamal A'malu Binniyat, they look at the chain going back and if the chain is different then guess what this is called the different hadith. For basic people we just care about Innamal A'malu Binniyat, we don't care about the chains. For scholars of hadith if there is a different chain then this is considered a different hadith.

So, coming back to the test of Imam Al-Bukhari, each one of the ten hadith are mixed and matched. The first scholar quotes the first hadith, let's say Innamal A'malu Binniyat we don't know the 100's of hadith they quoted to Imam Al-Bukhari. It's a famous hadith so he mentions the first hadith with different isnad then he asked Bukhari, Do you have this hadith? Imam Al-

LEARN ISLAM

Bukhari said, No, I have never heard this hadith. For the students, this is the famous and obvious hadith in the world but Bukhari is saying he has never heard it. The second hadith, again Bukhari is saying I have never heard this hadith. The third, the fourth and all ten and these basic students all know these famous ten hadiths and Bukhari is saying I have never heard these ten.

Then the next ten begins with the next Shaikh and the next ten with another Shaikh and the next ten and the next ten until finally all 100 have been done and Bukhari has admitted that he is Jahil for all 100 of them. So clearly they believed that they have won now because if Bukhari has said he has heard of them then they would have exposed him that these hadith don't exist, you made a mistake.

When they have finished Bukhari said, are you all finished? They said, yes. Okay as for you back to the first hadith, your first hadith was ABCDEF Innamal A'malu Binniyat but it is incorrect, it should be EFGHI Innamal A'malu Binniyat. Then he began with the second, he corrected it, then third and fourth, all the 100 incorrect hadith, he corrected every single one of them.

Ibn Hajar said, what is amazing is not that Imam Al-Bukhari knows the right hadith with correct isnad and matan, we would expect this from hadith master. What is amazing is that he memorized all the incorrect versions and the order that they appeared after having only listened to them once.

This is the live test done in the entire masjid of Bagdad with all the thousands of students that Imam Al-Bukhari's memory was tested on and the scholars realized that the hype is true and the man truly meets up the hype.

LEARN ISLAM

THE GREATEST WORK OF IMAM AL-BUKHARI

Let us talk about what was the inspiration behind the book of Imam Al-Bukhari, Sahih Al-Bukhari.

He tells us that when he was a young man, he saw in his dream Prophet (SAW) and Bukhari is standing in front of Prophet (SAW) and there re flies are coming and Imam Al-Bukhari was standing there warding of the flies, protecting the Prophet (SAW) from these flies. When he woke up he asked his shaikh, what this dream meant. And the shaikh said, you will ward off fabricated hadith from the Prophet (SAW) like these flies, basically your job in life to protect Prophet (SAW) from these pesky flies that are trying to come to him but nothing to do with him.

As for the idea of actually writing Sahih Al-Bukhari, this idea came to him from his famous teacher Ishaq Ibn Rahway and another famous Persian scholar of hadith, one of the giants of hadiths of his time. Once Ishaaq Ibn Rahway teaching his students and Imam Al-Bukhari was his primary student, he happened to mention that it would be such a good idea if somebody wrote a book concentrating only on the Sahih hadith.

So, Imam Al-Bukhari said, that idea entered into my heart. It took him a total of 16 years to write it and he compiled it primarily in the city of Basra where he lived for 5 years and he performed hajj every year and sifting through over 600,000 (six hundred thousand) hadith that he memorized and trying to find those hadith that fit the match the most perfectly to write Sahih Al-Bukhari.

Then during the last few years of writing the Sahih, he moved to Madina because he wanted to have the blessings of living in Madina and especially in the last year of 16 years, he spent his entire time going over and re-editing and revising, so his entire day and night are dedicated for Sahih Al-Bukhari. He told his students later on that for every single hadith that I choose I made special wudu and I prayed 2 Rakat Istikhara in the raut of Prophet (SAW) for every single hadith. So, there is a spiritual element here as well.

LEARN ISLAM

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 10,000 DINARS?

Towards the end of his life, Imam Al-Bukhari was going on a journey to make some business transactions. He went on a ship to go to a land, he had with him a good amount of money 10,000 dinars (Gold Coins) probably like a lot of money. He is on a ship and it is a long journey, he befriends somebody and that somebody turns out of a low character, evil character. Imam Al-Bukhari just happens to have a conversation with that man that I have 10,000 dinars I am going to buy such and such things.

The next day news spreads that the captain of the ship is saying, somebody has stolen 10,000 dinars from his companion of Bukhari and we will search the whole ship to see who has 10,000 dinars. You understand what that evil person has done, he flipped it around and the guy saying somebody stole my 10,000 dinars.

When Bukhari hears this, he takes the bag of gold coins, puts it in his sleeve, goes to the top of the ship and when nobody's looking, throws it into the water. The captain searches top to bottom, nothing is found. Later on, the man came and said, I know you are not lying, I know you are Imam Al-Bukhari. You must have had the money, where is the hiding place?

Imam Al-Bukhari casually told him that "I threw it overseas / into the water". The man said, what? Are you a fool? I mean even if I wasn't able to get it, at least you could have benefited it, now neither of us benefits.

So, what Imam Al-Bukhari says? He said I have spent a lifetime making sure that my credibility is clean so that the hadith of the Prophet (SAW) would be accepted from me and this is worth much more than 10,000 dinars that can go but my reputation cannot be tarnished. Where else the hadith that I am narrating will be tarnished.

LEARN ISLAM

MASTER OF 3 SCIENCES

Very rare, very rare that in the history of the ummah that you find a scholar who is truly a master of multiple fields. Yes, you can be good in multiple fields but a very rare master.

Imam Al-Bukhari is a specialist in hadith and he was also a specialist in Aqeedah (Theology) and he was also a specialist of Fiqh.

- He wrote books on Hadith
- He wrote books on Aqeedah
- He wrote books on Fiqh

LEARN ISLAM

THE TESTIMONY OF IMAM MUSLIM

Imam Muslim came up to him public gathering, Imam Muslim kissed him on his forehead and he said,

Allow me to kiss your head,

O teacher of teachers,

You are the shaikh of all muhaddiseen, and

The doctor of hadith.

This testimony is coming from the second most famous scholar of hadith in the world and that is Imam Muslim.

Imam Muslim is saying that Bukhari is not one notch above me, Bukhari is light years ahead of me.

LEARN ISLAM

HATERS – THE RIVALRY AND SLANDER

Now you can imagine he probably had a lot of haters. His reputation grew especially as a 21-year-old walking into cities where they have 70-year-olds hadith scholars and everyone leaves those 70-year-olds scholars because they realized that the 21-year-old knows what he is talking about a lot.

Even though Al-Bukhari has the Adab that we have mentioned, he is so careful not to offend anyone not to say anything bad about someone, he gains his level of hater. So, Imam Al-Bukhari goes to Naisabur. Al-Naisabur where he taught Imam Muslim (Rahimahu Allah).

There was a great scholar there by the name of Yahya Ad-Duhali. Yahya Ad-Duhali was considered the greatest Muhaddith of that city. One of the greatest Muhaddith of that time. He was the primary teacher of Imam Muslim until Imam Al-Bukhari came along. When Imam Al-Bukhari came along, he directed people to him, praised him and everything like that but Yahya Ad-Duhali realized that his students were slowly decreasing and they were all going to Imam Al-Bukhari.

So, what is the easiest and cheapest and dirtiest way to discredit someone? You know how? You label them, you say he is a Wahabi, he is a Sufi, don't listen to him, he is secretly belonging to this group. So, what did Yahya Ad-Duhali do? He did the same. His ego got to him, his jealousy got to him, so he told people that Al-Bukhari secretly from Al-Murtazila. Al-Murtazila, this is the group that tortured Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal (Rahimahu Allah) and Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal had just passed away at that point.

Unfortunately, Yahya Ad-Duhali has succeeded in turning the people of Al-Naisabur against Imam Al-Bukhari.

LEARN ISLAM

POLITICAL PRESSURE, THREATS, AND DISCRETIZATION

Imam Al-Bukhari goes back to his home town of Bukhara, people receive him well and everything is like okay, you know you are back and Alhamdulillah the legend of ours that left 40 years ago and that's gone around the world and you are the most famous person in the Muslim world and came back to the city of Bukhara. The governor whose name is Khalid Ad-Duhali, tells Bukhari that I want you to come to teach me and my children hadith in our house. Imam Al-Bukhari says, nope, you want to learn hadith then you come to the masjid. Governor said, okay in masjid we will have a special place for my kids, Al-Bukhari says, No, you have to come and sit in the circle of hadith and Bukhari said that I will never sell Ilm (Knowledge) for my own personal gain. Whatever you are going to do, go ahead and do, ALLAH will protect me. If you want to learn then you will have to come to masjid just like everyone else.

Khalid Ad-Duhali now starts to slander him as well, what does he do? He spreads the old rumor now that was spread by Yahya Ad-Duhali that he secretly belongs to Al-Murtazila and then what he does is he starts to pass fake fatwa in the name of Imam Al-Bukhari to make a mockery of him. Ad-Duhali, he goes to another Shaikh by the name of Huraith, and he says to Huraith, you start discrediting Al-Bukhari and I will put you in a position where you will be Mufti of this city and you will replace Imam Al-Bukhari in this city. What did they do? They started to spread false fatwas in the name of Al-Bukhari.

The first fatwa they spread went viral, they said that Al-Bukhari says, if you drink the milk of a sheep then that sheep is mahram to you because it is like breastfeeding rules. So, the people started to laugh about Imam Al-Bukhari and they mocked him and so on so forth. So they hurt Al-Bukhari, they slandered him. He is sitting in the masjid Al-Bukhari 60 years old and a group of young people walks in and they said, did you give this fatwa and before he could even answer they jumped on him and started to beat him, so this great Aalim, greatest scholar in the world is bloodied up and bruised up and his credibility is lost and he is so depressed about that he says, I am leaving you people and he made a dua against them and you know SubhanAllah, that's permissible to do right against who wronged you. He made a dua against

LEARNISLAM

them, he said O ALLAH avenge me for what they have done, there is a powerful dua he made it that, turn it back on them and their families and everything they accused me of put it back on them and their children and their families.

Ibn-Kathir says, when Imam Al-Bukhari left Bukhara, the very next year Khalid Ad-Duhali got caught with corruption and the Khalifa sent an order to the people not only to kill him, they tied him to the back of the donkey and the donkey pulled him by his legs. All around the city the governor and the people spit on him and they dragged him to the prison and he died in that prison cell and nobody cared for him. Huraith that scholar also said corruption came about him and Ibn-Kathir says, he was tested in every single way that you could be tested with the disease, hatred, corruption, and everything. So, this is the power of the dua.

The Prophet (SAW) says, the dua of majlum who is oppressed, there is no hijab between that dua and ALLAH (SWT). It goes to ALLAH (SWT). Even if it's a non-muslim (Kafir) makes a dua to ALLAH that if it is wrong then ALLAH accepts it.

LEARN ISLAM

THE DEATH OF THE GREATEST SCHOLAR OF HADITH

Imam Al-Bukhari went to a small tiny town called Khartank. He had a few relatives there, he is like he is so disgusted with the way he is being treated by the people of Bukhara. One of the most fascinating human beings that's ever walked the face of the earth and he was rejected and turned away by the people. He celebrated Ramadan with his relatives and in the last 10 days of Ramadan, Imam Al-Bukhari constantly made dua to ALLAH that this world suffocates me, rejected by people, take my soul, take me back to you.

When Imam Al-Bukhari makes the dua, look at how ALLAH accepted his dua? Ramadan finishes when I say Ramadan finishes I mean the Azan of Maqrib. Al-Bukhari is about to set out the last night of Ramadan, Ramadan has just ended. It's Laylat-ul-Eid. He just finished his Ramadan, he is about to get on a camel to leave and as he is about to get on to camel, he suddenly says that I am feeling weak, I can't get on the camel. People said, what do you mean? You look fine. He says, I just feel weak right now and he started to vomit and he started to sweat and he developed a fever and he died literally after Ramadan. SubhanAllah.

LEARN ISLAM

THE DREAM AND CONCLUSION

Shunned by people, rejected by people, just with few relatives around him. This man passes away and SubhanAllah, this is very significant because his brother saw a dream that night that Prophet (SAW) standing with some of the Sahaba and the Prophet (SAW) was waiting like the Prophet (SAW) and Sahaba were trying to move on and his brother says, the Sahaba said to the Prophet (SAW), who are you waiting for? So, the Prophet (SAW) responded, we are waiting for Mohammed Ibn Ismail Bukhari, we are waiting for Imam Al-Bukhari.

Imam Al-Bukhari, he leaves this world that night and that was 1st of Shawwal in the year 256 A.H at the age of 62 years old. SubhanAllah, people of Samarkand heard that Imam Al-Bukhari died, they came and they took his body and they brought him to Samarkand and prayed janaza on him after Eid-ul-Fitr in the thousands. One of the largest janaza in Islamic History. Even though the people tried to turn him away, his janazah was one of the largest in Islamic History. And when they went to open his grave, which is in modern days now on Uzbekistan, they had a strong scent there until today the scent is there.

The Prophet (SAW) said that one of the things that a person leaves behind him that benefits them is ILM (KNOWLEDGE) that benefits the people.

At what moment on earth is a person not narrating a hadith of Imam Al-Bukhari? This is the greatest legacy that has been left behind of knowledge after the Prophet (SAW) and his Companions.

And when Al-Bukhari passed away, remember the dream he had when he was a child putting his foot in the footsteps of the Prophet (SAW). All of the colleagues and students of Imam Al-Bukhari started to have this dream of Bukhari putting his foot in the footsteps of the Prophet (SAW).

May we ask ALLAH (SWT) to have mercy upon him, to accept his everything that he has done for the sake of ALLAH (SWT), to accept all of his efforts for us, sincerity and to make this legacy that we can benefit from. In Sha Allah. Aameen…!

Jazakallahu Khairan

Mohammed Imran Khan

LEARN ISLAM